

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached is one sheet of Replacement Sheet, along with one sheet of Marked Up Drawing Sheet, indicating proposed changes to Fig. 4 and Fig. 5.

REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

Summary of the Response

Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 have been amended. The Specification has been amended. Claims 2-5, 7, 9, 10, 15 and 16 have been amended. New claims 17-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 have been amended to include a schematic representation of controller 50 and controller 51, respectively. This does not add any new matter, as the controller corresponds to controller 9 disclosed in reference to Fig. 1. The switches described in the corresponding sections of the specification are controlled by these controllers. The specification has been amended to make specific reference to the controllers 50 and 51.

Title Objection

The title of the invention has been replaced with a more descriptive title indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Abstract Objection

An abstract has been added to the specification.

Further, relevant section headings have been added to the specification.

Claims Objections

Claims 1-16 are objected to because of various informalities:

Claims 1, 3-5, 12-16 have been objected to because of improper use of the parentheses in claims 1, 3-5 and 12-16. Applicant respectfully disagrees. MPEP 608.01(M) specifically provides, in part:

“Reference characters corresponding to elements recited in the detailed description and the drawings may be used in conjunction with the recitation of the same element or group of elements in the claims. The reference characters, however, should be enclosed within parentheses so as to avoid confusion with other numbers or characters which may appear in the claims. The use of reference characters is to be considered as having no effect on the scope of the claims.”

Accordingly, claims 1, 3-5 and 12-16 are in proper form with respect to use of parentheses for reference characters, as permitted by MPEP 608.01(M).

Claims 3 and 15 are objected to as being in improper form because a multiple claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. Claims 4-11 are objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claims 4-11. The affected claims have been amended to remove multiple dependency.

The spelling “preformed” in claim 2 has been corrected to “performed”.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knapp et al. (US Patent No. 6373454). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite that the second switch is provided between the data line and the anode of the emissive element. Knapp does not disclose similar structure. Specifically, Knapp discloses a switch connected to the cathode of the display element 20.

New dependent claim 17 has been added to further recite that the first switch and the second switch are provided in parallel between the data line and the emissive element. Knapp does not disclose such parallel configured switches.

Claim 16 and its dependent claims are therefore patentable over Knapp.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-3 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp in view of Kimura et al. (US Publication No. 2004/0085270). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Concerning independent claim 12, the Examiner asserted Knapp discloses detection of leakage current flowing through emissive element, by referring to disclosure of a sampling phase in the Knapp circuit to correspond to the detection of leakage current. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Knapp sampling phase is completely different from the leakage current detection recited in claim 12. In fact, at column 8, line 42 in Knapp, it is specifically stated that small reverse leakage currents are ignored. Further, the Examiner acknowledged that Knapp does not disclose sensing voltage provided on the data line.

Kimura does not make up for the deficiencies of Knapp. Kimura likewise does not refer to leakage current detection. Further, the Examiner referred to Kimura to disclose sensing voltage on the data line, an element acknowledged by the Examiner to be missing in Knapp. Applicant respectfully disagrees. No where in Kimura is there any disclosure of sensing voltage, whether or not provided on the data line. The voltages Vdd and Vss in Kimura do not correspond to the function and purpose of the recited sensing voltage, in the context of the invention as recited in the claims and as supported by the specification. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to specifically point out how such voltages in Kimura would correspond to the recited sensing voltage.

Given the absence of corresponding elements in the cited references, even if Knapp and Kimura can somehow be combined in the manner suggested only by the Examiner, such combination would not obtain claim 12. There is no apparent reason to combine Knapp and Kimura in the first place. Accordingly, claim 12 and its dependent claims are not rendered obvious by Knapp and Kimura.

Further, claims dependent from claim 12 add further limitations that further distinguish the invention from the combination of Knapp and Kimura. For example, dependent claim 13 recites two switches arranged in series between the data line and the drive element. The Examiner referred to switches 30 and 37 to correspond to switches arranged in series between the “data line 14” and the “drive element 20”. However, the element 20 is not a drive element, but a display element in Knapp. Further, switches 30 and 37 are not in series from the data line 14. In fact, no where in Knapp shows two switches connected in series to a driving element.

Concerning independent claim 1, the Examiner sweepingly asserted that the only difference between claim 1 and claim 12 is in the limitation “repeated output periods”.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Under the examination guidelines in the MPEP, the Examiner is obligated to provide a reasoned basis for rejections asserted, with reference to the recited claim language. Here, the Examiner merely broadly stated that there is a single difference between claim 1 and earlier discussed claim 12. Such is clearly incorrect, and incomplete. For example, claim 1 recites “a sensing period” in addition to “repeated output periods”. Applicant should not be unnecessarily burdened to guess the basis of the Examiner’s rejection. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to provide a thorough and complete reasoning for supporting his rejection of claim 1, or withdraw such rejection.

Even assuming *arguendo* that the Examiner’s perception of the difference between claim 1 and claim 12, and even assuming that Knapp discloses the additional limitation in claim 1 as compared to claim 12, it follows that claim 1 should be patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 12.

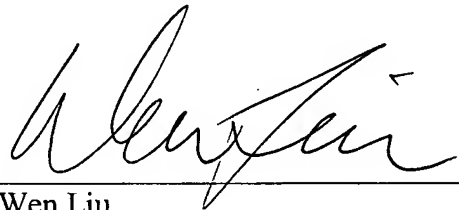
Accordingly, claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are patentable over Knapp and Kimura.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this transmittal and associated documents, or to credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account No. 501288** referencing the attorney docket number of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Marked-Up Drawing Sheet

